



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN

News Briefs

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Issue No. 22

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

Feasibility Study Human Health Alternatives- Contact:

Sean Sheldrake - (206) 553-1220

Feasibility Study Ecological Health Alternatives - Contact:

Mary Jane Nearman - (206) 553-6642 or Anne Dailey - (206) 553-2110

Community Outreach - Contact: Dick Martindale - (208) 664-4588 or

Marianne Deppman - (206) 553-1237

Basin Project Schedule Change: EPA is continuing to work with the states, tribes and trustee agencies to develop the preferred cleanup alternative and Proposed Plan for the Basin. We are also working to incorporate the community input we've heard to date.

In order to produce a Proposed Plan that is supported by the governments and is responsive to community concerns, the release date for the Plan will be delayed by approximately two months. The release date is now scheduled for early fall.

By spending additional time working through issues and seeking consensus before the release of the Proposed Plan, EPA believes we will spend less time modifying the preferred alternative and can issue the Record of Decision more quickly. The scheduled release of the Record of Decision is expected to be delayed approximately one month, until winter of 2002.

Other Agency/Entity Contacts and Highlights

Bureau of Land Management - Contact: David Fortier - (208)769-5022

Coeur d'Alene Tribe - Contact: Phillip Cernera - (208)667-4119

The Supreme Court recently reaffirmed the Tribe's claim that they indeed own the southern portion of Lake Coeur d'Alene. For more information on how the Tribe has and will continue to manage the Lake's natural resources contact Mr. Phillip Cernera at the Tribe's Natural Resource Damage Project Office at (208)-667-4119 or Mr. Alfred Nomee (Director of the Tribe's Natural Resource Department) at (208)-686-1800.

Panhandle Health District- Contact: Jerry Cobb - (208) 783-0707

The 2001 blood lead screening in the Box will start on July 5th. This will be available to children from 6 months through 9 years old, and will be conducted door-to-door. This will be the first year that the finger stick method will be used to collect and analyze blood samples, and though it takes a bit longer to draw the blood sample the results will be available immediately afterwards. If a blood lead result is 8 micrograms per deciliter or higher, a venous sample will also be collected.

Blood lead screening in the Basin will be conducted later this summer at two fixed sites: the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Osburn, and Canyon School. This screening is available to children from 6 months through 6 years old. Specific times and dates will be provided in the near future.

Private Land Owners/Managers - Contact Frank Frutchey - (208) 682-2077

Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees - Contact: Marti Calabretta - (208) 786-2471

The Success Mine and Mill Site Groundwater Treatment Project Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in early July. The SVNRT awarded the Phase 2 contract to Randall Construction of Hayden for \$576,000. Kettle drilling is the sub contractor. Phase 2 will complete the groundwater collection system by extending the cut-off wall an additional 1200 feet. This action will isolate the groundwater generated by the site from the surface waters of East Fork Nine Mile. The impacted groundwater is directed into a treatment vault with two compartments which provide cells to demonstrate different treatment medium. The goal is to reduce the dissolved zinc contribution to the surface waters of EFNM.

Shoshone County Commissioner Jon Cantamessa has joined the Trustees. We are grateful for seven years of dedicated participation by outgoing Commissioner Sherry Krulitz.

State of Idaho - Contact: Rob Hanson (208) 373-0290 or Kathy Johnson (208) 660-4460

State of Washington Department of Ecology - Contact: John Roland - (509) 625-5182

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Julie Campbell (509) 891-0450

Sediment Amendments: Reducing the Bioavailability of Lead to Water-

fowl in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. Bradley Frazier¹, Daniel Audet¹, Nick Zilka², Gary Heinz³, Anne Dailey⁴, and Stan Peterson⁵. ¹U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Spokane, WA, ²Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Kellogg, ID, ³U.S. Geological Survey, Laurel, MD, ⁴Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle, WA, and ⁵URS Greiner, Seattle, WA.

We are conducting linked field and laboratory studies to assess the effectiveness of sediment amendments to reduce the bioavailability of lead-contaminated sediments to waterfowl. Along with the affiliations of the authors, these studies are the product of consensus reached by a number of Coeur d'Alene Basin stakeholders, including representatives from Washington Department of Ecology, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Ridolfi Engineers, and others. An extensive evaluation of alternative amendments was conducted and apatite (available in both liquid and solid forms) was chosen as the most promising amendment. Apatite reacts with lead to form lead-phosphate minerals, which do not readily release lead once the mineralizing-reaction has occurred.

This collaborative effort includes both field and laboratory studies. Two lead-contaminated sites along the Coeur d'Alene River (Black Rock Slough and Bull Run Lake) were chosen for the field study. Both solid and liquid apatite were applied to the sediments at the field sites in March 2001 and will be allowed about 6 months to bind with the lead (i.e., field-aged). Measurements will be taken to compare the concentrations of leachable metals in sediments treated with apatite to untreated sediments. Sediments from the field sites and from another contaminated site (Harrison Slough) and one control site (Round Lake) were collected in March 2001. Under controlled laboratory conditions, liquid apatite was added to sediments from Bull Run Lake and Harrison Slough and will be allowed about 6 months to react with the lead (laboratory-aged). Sediments from the liquid apatite field-aged and laboratory-aged sediment groups will be processed into food pellets (12% sediment) and fed to commercially raised mallards for 8 weeks during the Fall of 2001. To assess the bioavailability of lead to waterfowl in treated and untreated sediments, the concentrations of lead in blood, liver, and kidney will be measured and the effects of lead on several blood parameters will be compared to control groups.

The results of this study could lead to further assessment of full-scale sediment amendment application in areas where the treatment is anticipated to sufficiently reduce lead bioavailability to waterfowl such that injury due to lead poisoning is minimized.

Contact:

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Wildlife Office
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United States Forest Service - Contact: John Specht or
Jeff Johnson - (208) 664-2318

United States Geological Survey - Contact: Paul Woods - (208) 387-1353

Calendar of Events

July 11th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Citizens Advisory Committee and CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building (Rose Lake). Membership, update on Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission Projects, Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan, and finalize cover letter and comments on the Proposed Plan progress report.

July 10th and 24th, 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition. Brooks Hotel (500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID) Contact Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022 (group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month)

July 12th, 7 to 9 p.m. - TENTATIVE

Washington CAC. Contact Jim Wilson for details at 509-252-2290.

August 8th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission. Associated Logging Contractors Building, Highway 95.